

*New Federal Funding will restore and renovate 13 deteriorating facilities w/in Islip helping homeless vets and vets in transition*

Islip, NY— Tuesday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) join with Town Supervisor Phil Nolan, Councilman Gene Parrington and local veterans to announce \$500,000 in new federal funding that will provide for the restoration and renovation of twelve deteriorated veteran facilities within the Town of Islip. Farmingdale State College students have performed an audit of the facilities to determine the needs at the various facilities. The funding passed the House of Representatives last week as part of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Funding bill.

"Even as we draw down troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, the needs of the men and women who have served must remain our top priority," Israel said. "The demands on our local veterans' facilities will increase and we must improve those resources accordingly. I'm proud to have secured this federal funding for these Islip veterans facilities which will provide much-needed upgrades to the facilities local veterans depend on now and for years to come."

"I applaud Congressman Israel for working hard to secure this funding," said Supervisor Nolan. "Veterans deserve every penny we can possibly give. This money will be put toward something all Islip residents can be proud of."

Councilman Gene Parrington said, "I am very excited to be working with Congressman Israel to secure funding for our veterans. The VFW's and American Legion Halls are important to our local veterans and soldiers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. As a Vietnam veteran myself watching them deteriorate has been particularly difficult. This funding will benefit our veterans as well as the entire community."

This project will allow for restorations to deteriorated facilities that are utilized by local veteran and non-profit organizations as well as the entire community to ensure they are structurally safe and in compliance with all codes. These veteran facilities increase the availability of shelter and assistance for homeless veterans and create helps ease the transition into civilian life for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

This project consists of the restoration and renovation of twelve deteriorated veteran facilities within the Town of Islip. The Town of Islip, Farmingdale State College, Congressman Steve Israel, and local veteran organizations, have formed a partnership to ensure that these vital facilities receive the funding needed to complete the required capital improvements. As part of their curriculum, Farmingdale State College students visited with the commander at each facility and completed current condition drawings and energy audits. The student's work will be used to determine what improvements will be made to each facility. Renovations will be made to increase structural safety, energy efficiency, accessibility, and to bring each facility into compliance with all State and Town Building and Fire Codes. The VFW in Bay Shore was damaged during a recent storm and was added to the list.

New York State is home to an estimated 1,000,000 veterans not including active duty personnel. Of those, nearly 90,000 reside in Suffolk County while 20,000 call Islip home. Of the homeless population in New York, nearly 25% are veterans. Funding the necessary capital improvements to these facilities will ensure that homeless veterans have a place to go for temporary shelter and assistance, and that the Town's veteran and non-profit organizations can continue to provide vital services to the community.